

Remarks

Claims 1, 5 and 6 are amended herein. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore Claims 1 – 6 remain in the case. There are now three (3) independent claims. No additional fee is required.

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. Section 112 rejection. It should now be clear that the apparatus claimed is for holding and carrying golf clubs but is not claimed in the combination with golf clubs.

The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's Sec. 102 rejection of Claims 1 – 4 as being anticipated by Townsend et al. There are substantial differences between Townsend and the present invention. For one, the tubular members of Townsend are obviously as long as the golf clubs carried thereby. Thus, the cross-section area required at the bottom of the golf bag must be large enough to accommodate the tubular members and the other golf clubs. In contrast, with the substantially shorter tubular members of the present invention, the bottom of the golf bag need only accommodate the grip ends of the clubs, a smaller cross-sectional area.

In addition, the tubular members of the present invention are shorter and opened at both ends. The shorter configuration reduces the weight of the apparatus. The open ends also prevents accumulation of water from rain and the like.

In contrast, the full length tubes of Townsend are obviously heavier and since they are closed at the lower ends are subject to collecting moisture, dirt or other unwanted materials. For these reasons, Claim 1 is easily distinguishable from Townsend and should be allowable.

Claims 2 through 4 are directed to additional features which in combination with Claim 1, are not shown in Townsend. They should be allowable.

Claims 5 and 6 have been amended so that they are now in independent form and rewritten to overcome Sec. 112 rejections. As such, the Examiner has indicated that they would be allowed.

All of the claims, Claims 1 – 6, should now be in allowable form. As such, their allowance and issuance of a patent thereon is earnestly solicited.

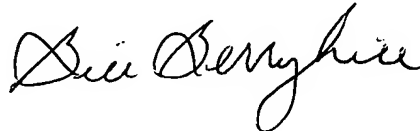
Respectfully submitted,



Bill B. Berryhill
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 24,577

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence (Amendment A) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on August 22, 2005, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.





“Version to Show Markings With Changes Made”

In the Claims

1. (Amended) Apparatus removably engageable with a golf bag for holding and carrying two or more selected golf clubs from said golf bag, said apparatus comprising:

two or more tubular members substantially shorter than [said] any golf clubs to be carried thereby joined together in parallel relationship, opened at each end and through which the shafts of said selected golf clubs may be inserted;

an elongated handle member having a proximal end attached near one end of said tubular members and extending in spaced parallel relationship therewith toward a free distal end which may be inserted into said golf bag for said removable engagement of said apparatus with said golf bag.

5. (Amended) [The apparatus of Claim 4 in which] Apparatus removably engageable with a golf bag for holding and carrying selected golf clubs from said golf bag, said apparatus comprising:

three tubular members substantially shorter than any golf clubs to be carried thereby and joined together in parallel relationship, opened at each end and through which the shafts of said selected golf clubs may be inserted, said tubular members, in cross-section, being arranged in triangular relationship, two forming a base and one the apex of said apparatus; and

an elongated handle member having a proximal end attached near one end of said tubular member which forms said apex and extending in spaced parallel relationship therewith toward a free distal end which may be inserted into said golf bag for said removable engagement of said apparatus with said golf bag and allowing said

apparatus, with said selected golf clubs inserted into said tubular members, to be carried by said handle and laid on the ground so that said two tubular members which form said base support said apparatus on the ground, said handle member [is] also being telescopically extendable from a retracted position of a length substantially the same as said tubular members to a extended position of a length substantially the same as [said golf club] shafts of said selected golf clubs allowing said apparatus and said selected golf clubs carried thereby to be supported by said handle and the ends of said selected golf clubs in a vertical disposition.

6. (Amended) [The apparatus of Claim 4] Apparatus removably engageable with a golf bag for holding and carrying selected golf clubs from said golf bag, said apparatus comprising:

three tubular members substantially shorter than any golf clubs to be carried thereby and joined together in parallel relationship, opened at each end and through which the shafts of said selected golf clubs may be inserted, said tubular members, in cross-section, being arranged in triangular relationship, two forming a base and one the apex of said apparatus, said tubular members being joined by interconnecting webs forming elongated recesses therebetween, at least one of said recesses being provided with one or more holders in which one or more golf balls may be removably carried; and

an elongated handle member having a proximal end attached near one end of said tubular members and extending in spaced parallel relationship therewith toward a free distal end which may be inserted into said golf bag for said removable engagement of said apparatus with said golf bag.